

subsequent decree declaring the heroicity of virtue, at which stage the Founder will receive the title of « Venerable ». Following this, the necessary miracles will be examined, and finally all will rest upon the decree « De tuto », granting Beatification.

Let us hope, therefore, through our prayers and sacrifices, and through the intercession of our Founder, that the work of our Postulation will prove productive, allowing them to realize their first success: the Beatification of our Founder.



100 YEAR OF SERVICE TO GOD IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

During 1958 the Province of British Columbia, Canada, was celebrating its First Centennial Year. And in conjunction with civic festivities proper to centenary celebrations, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate were commemorating 100 years of service to God in B.C. This historical coincidence was beneficial to all concerned — it gave Oblate centennial celebrations added impetus, the entire Province being already centennial-minded, and by the same token. B. C.'s Centennial Year was greatly enhanced by the inclusion of ceremonies paying tribute to those Oblate sons of Mary who pioneered the Church in B.C. and left their irrevocable mark upon its history.

In addition to year-long promotion through radio, press and television, several major projects were planned for 1958, such as the restoration of the Okanagan Mission, established at Kelowna by Father Charles Pandosy, O.M.I. (see story on p. 483), and the reconstruction of the old mission church at Our

Lady of Good Hope, Fort St. James, originally built by Fathers John Lejacq. O.M.I., and George Blanchet, O.M.I., in 1873.

The restoration of the Okanagan Mission, one of B.C.'s most historic sites, won just acclaim for the Oblates and was regarded by many as the major event in the whole of B.C.'s centennial celebrations.

The climax to Oblate festive activities came on Sept. 14, when a spectacular Oblate Day program was held at the Vancouver Exhibition Forum. Over 5000 people were in attendance, including His Exc., Giovanni Panico, Apostolic Delegate to Canada, who was making his first visit to B.C. Featured on the program was an « All-Indian Entertainment » performed by members of the Squamish Indian Tribe, followed by « Champions of the Cross », a 60-minute pageant depicting in 28 scenes dramatic excerpts from the lives of the pioneer Oblates of British Columbia. The cast of 80 included many professional actors and ballet dancers. Massed choirs of Indian school children and adult members of local parish choirs also contributed to the Forum demonstration.

On the morning of the 14th, with the Apostolic Delegate in attendance, His Exc., William Duke, Archbishop of Vancouver, officiated at a Solemn Pontifical High Mass of Thanksgiving. The occasional sermon, extolling the work of the Oblates in B.C., was delivered by His Exc., Martin Johnson, Coadjutor Archbishop of Vancouver. The text of the sermon, herewith printed in full, briefly retraces the contribution of the Oblate Congregation to the Church in B. C.